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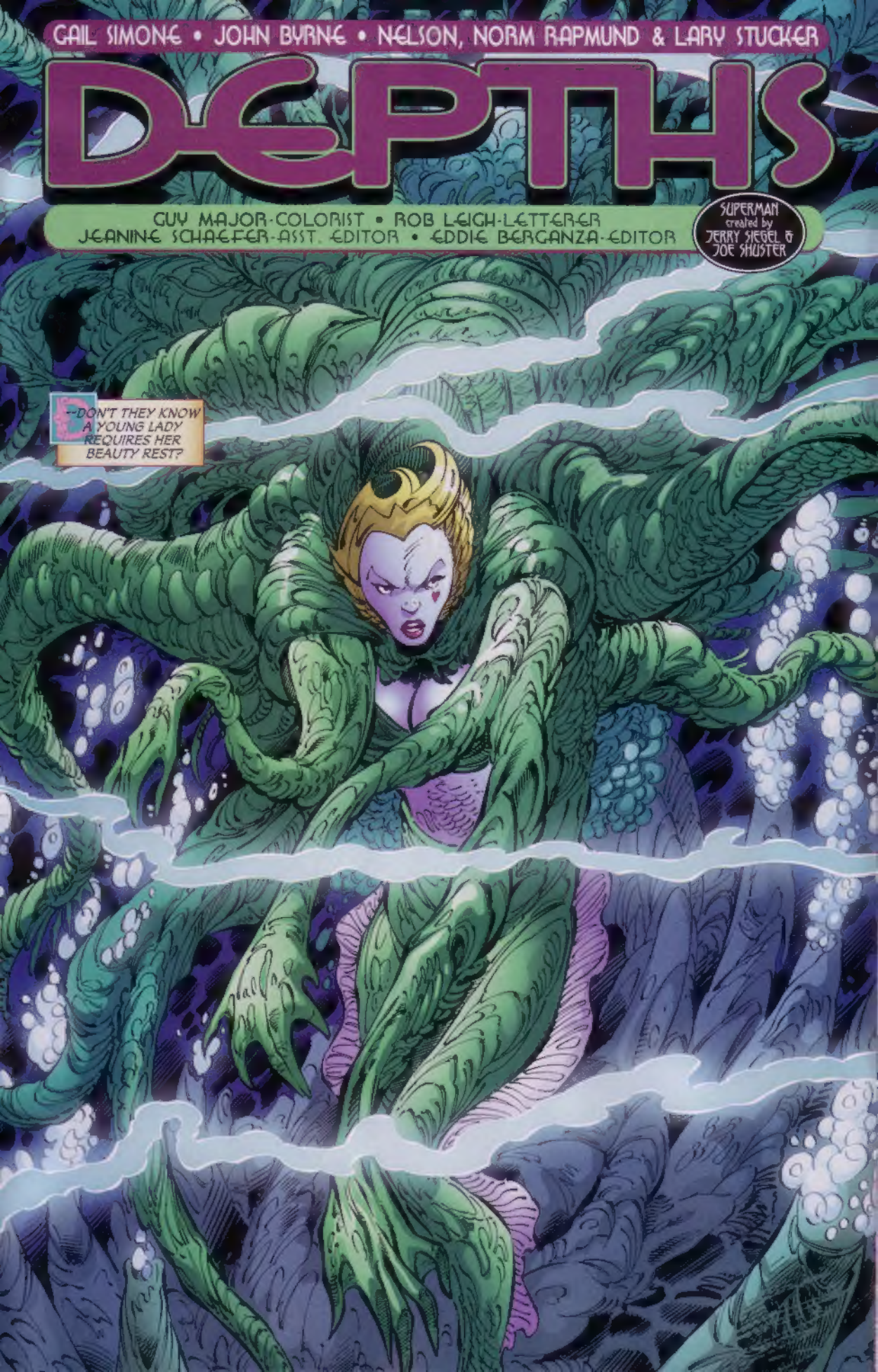
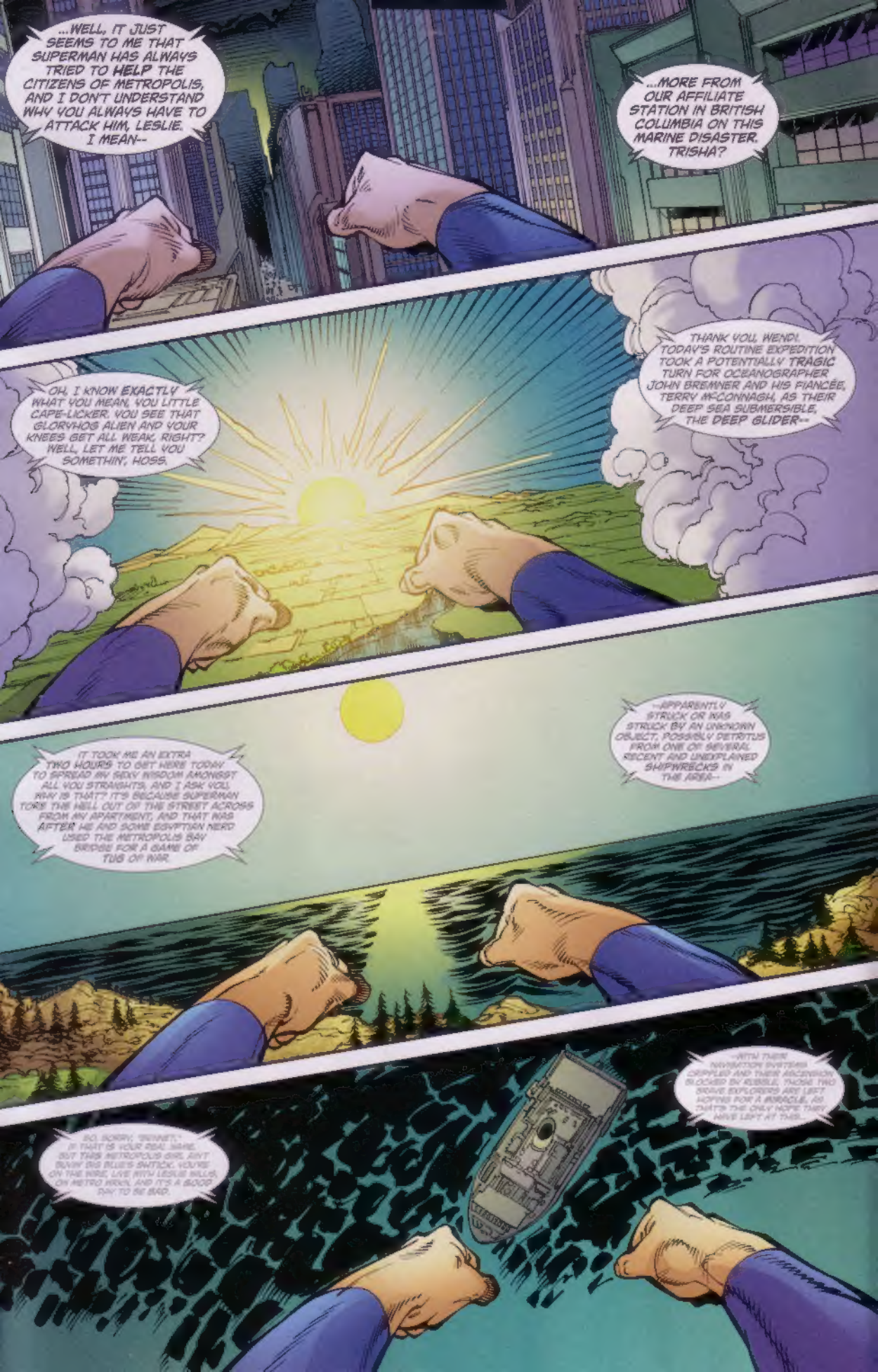
METROPOLIS WATERFRONT.
NICE CATCH, NIKOLAI.
BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW YOU'VE BEEN SUPPLEMENTING YOUR INCOME BY HAULING ILLEGALS INTO METROPOLIS ON YOUR FISHING BOATS.
YOU CRAZY.
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU PRINT THAT.
OH, NIK, YOU'RE A QUOTE MACHINE.
ANY OTHER THREATS, FOR THE RECORD?
I HAVE WITNESSES, JUST SO YOU KNOW. BUT, AND I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS HERE...
...YOU'RE JUST A SARDINE. I WANT THE SHARK.
OH, I GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU. I GOT SOMETHING FIT YOU JUST GOOD.
THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF AMERICAN PRESS!
OH, SWELL.
SO IT'S HOT FOR NOVEMBER AND ONE TIME I DECIDE TO WEAR OPEN-TOED FLATS.
sigh
LISTEN HERE, NIKOLAI.

I KNOW YOUR CREWS HAVE MISTREATED AND ABUSED THESE PEOPLE.
YOU TELL ME WHO SET YOU UP WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT AND I MAY TRY TO HELP KEEP YOU OUT OF THE FRYING PAN. IF NOT...
...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY IT WON'T BE CATCH AND RELEASE, SHALL WE?
YOU HAVE A DAY, NIK.
HEY!
I USE THE PLANET TO WRAP FISH IN, WOMAN!
MAY I RECOMMEND THE GLOBE, IN THAT CASE? IT'S MUCH MORE ABSORBENT.
OH, THE GLAMOROUS LIFE OF THE PLUCKY REPORTER GAL...
MS. LANE?
CONGRESSMAN SHEPHARD WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU. IN PRIVATE, PLEASE.
REALLY. AND HE COULDN'T CALL MY MACHINE BECAUSE...?
MS. LANE, YOU'VE ALREADY CONVICTED THE MAN IN THE PLANET. DON'T YOU OWE HIM AT LEAST ONE SHORT FACE-TO-FACE, OFF THE RECORD?
HE MEANS YOU NO HARM.
ALL RIGHT, MIKE. LET'S PRETEND I TRUST YOU.
LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR BOSS HAS TO SAY.

NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC WATERS, 6000 METERS ABOVE THE JUAN DE FUCA RIDGE.
DEEP GLIDER, THIS IS SEABASE DOING AN INSTRUMENT CHECK, SEND THE ALL CLEAR, PLEASE, OVER.
SEABASE, WE'RE FINE, DESCENT CLOCKS AT 400 FT PER MINUTE. TERRY SAYS SHE'S GOT SOMETHING ON THE SONAR, PROBABLY A SMALL SCHOOL, OTHERWISE, WELL...
...MOSTLY DARK, SEABASE.
HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CHOSE TO STUDY THE NUTRIENT ACQUISITION OF SULFIDE WORMS ON THE HYDROTHERMAL VENTS, JOHN. SEABASE OUT.
JOHN... WHATEVER THAT MASS IS, IT'S REALLY HAULING. RIGHT TOWARDS US.
DEEP GLIDER
RELAX, TERRY. IT'S JUST THE HEADLIGHTS.
THE FISH MISTAKE THEM FOR THE BIOLUMINESCENCE OF THEIR FOOD SOURCES.
I CAN... I CAN ALMOST SEE THEM. OR IT. WHATEVER IT IS.
MY GOD.
TERRY! WHAT IS IT?
I JUST— I JUST SAW A MERMAID.

FLUTTERING LITTLE ADVENTURERS, DISTURBING MY MUCH-NEEDED AND WELL-DESERVED REST.
SO INCONSIDERATE.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
SHE'S HIT THE HULL!
REALLY, IT'S AS IF THEY THINK THEIR LIVES ARE AS IMPORTANT AS MY NAP.
JOHN! WHAT DO WE DO?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SAW, BUT NOTHING EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN COULD POUND A TITANIUM HULL LIKE THAT!
WE'VE LOST CONTROL FOR BOTH SOFT AND HARD BALLAST...
WE'VE STOPPED MOVING!
OKAY, LISTEN. TERRY, WE'RE ON A LEDGE... BUT WE'VE GOT AT LEAST 94 HOURS OF LIFE SUPPORT LEFT. WE SHOULD BE OKAY UNTIL THEY CAN MOUNT A RESCUE!
MAYDAY, MAYDAY, THIS IS DEEP GLIDER CALLING SEABASE. WE ARE EXPERIENCING SEVERE NAVIGATION MALFUNCTION AND ARE IN DANGER OF HULL BREACH...PLEASE RESPOND!
OH, NO.
KERKKKK
WHAT IS IT? JOHN, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
DON'T LOOK. JUST...DON'T LOOK.
POOR LITTLE DARLINGS, IN WAY OVER THEIR HEADS.
OF COURSE, IT'S NO MORE THAN JUST PUNISHMENT.
I LOVE YOU, TERRY.
AFTER ALL--


GAIL SIMONE • JOHN BYRNE • NELSON, NORM RAPMUND & LARY STUCKER
DEPTHS
GUY MAJOR-COLORIST • ROB LEIGH-LETTERER
JEANINE SCHAEFER-ASST. EDITOR • EDDIE BERGANZA-EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
--DON'T THEY KNOW A YOUNG LADY REQUIRES HER BEAUTY REST?

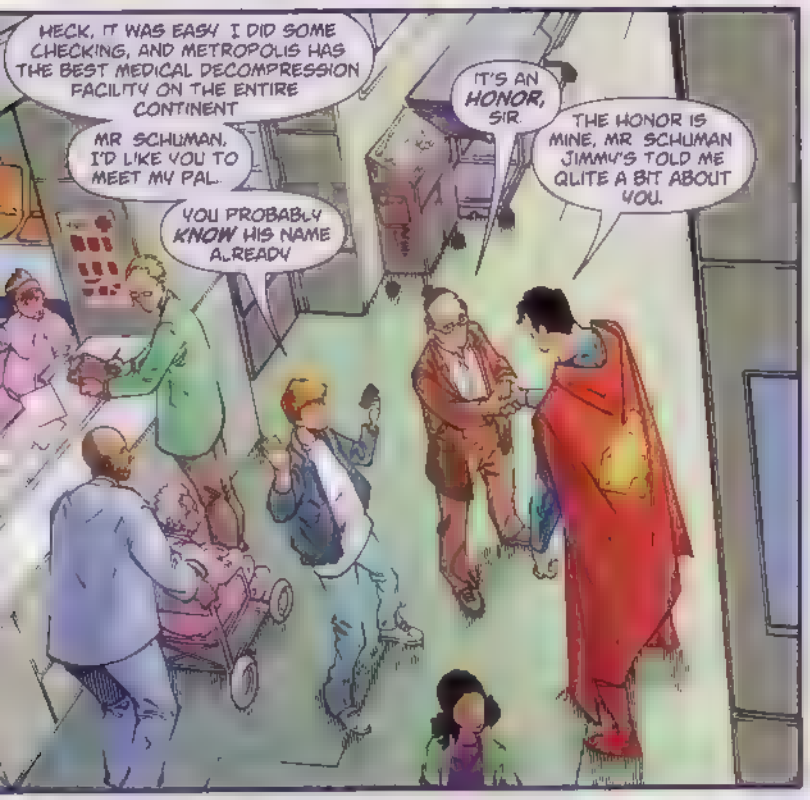

...WELL, IT JUST SEEMS TO ME THAT SUPERMAN HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO HELP THE CITIZENS OF METROPOLIS, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ATTACK HIM, LESLIE. I MEAN--
...MORE FROM OUR AFFILIATE STATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA ON THIS MARINE DISASTER. TRISHA?
OH, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN, YOU LITTLE CAPE-LICKER. YOU SEE THAT GLORYHOG ALIEN AND YOUR KNEES GET ALL WEAK, RIGHT? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHIN', HOSS.
THANK YOU, WENDI. TODAY'S ROUTINE EXPEDITION TOOK A POTENTIALLY TRAGIC TURN FOR OCEANOGRAPHER JOHN BREMNER AND HIS FIANCÉE, TERRY MCCONNAGH, AS THEIR DEEP SEA SUBMERSIBLE, THE DEEP GLIDER---
IT TOOK ME AN EXTRA TWO HOURS TO GET HERE TODAY TO SPREAD MY SEXY WISDOM AMONGST ALL YOU STRAIGHTS, AND I ASK YOU, WHY IS THAT? IT'S BECAUSE SUPERMAN TORE THE HELL OUT OF THE STREET ACROSS FROM MY APARTMENT, AND THAT WAS AFTER HE AND SOME EGYPTIAN NERD USED THE METROPOLIS BAY BRIDGE FOR A GAME OF TUG OF WAR.
--APPARENTLY STRUCK OR WAS STRUCK BY AN UNKNOWN OBJECT, POSSIBLY DETRITUS FROM ONE OF SEVERAL RECENT AND UNEXPLAINED SHIPWRECKS IN THE AREA--
SO, SORRY, "BRENNET," IF THAT IS YOUR REAL NAME, BUT THIS METROPOLIS GIRL AIN'T BUYIN' BIG BLUE'S SHTICK. YOU'RE ON THE WIRE, LIVE WITH LESLIE WILLIS, ON METRO WKKL, AND IT'S A GOOD DAY TO BE BAD.
--WITH THEIR NAVIGATION SYSTEMS CRIPPLED AND THEIR ASCENSION BLOCKED BY RUBBLE, THOSE TWO BRAVE EXPLORERS ARE LEFT HOPING FOR A MIRACLE, AS THAT'S THE ONLY HOPE THEY HAVE LEFT AT THIS...

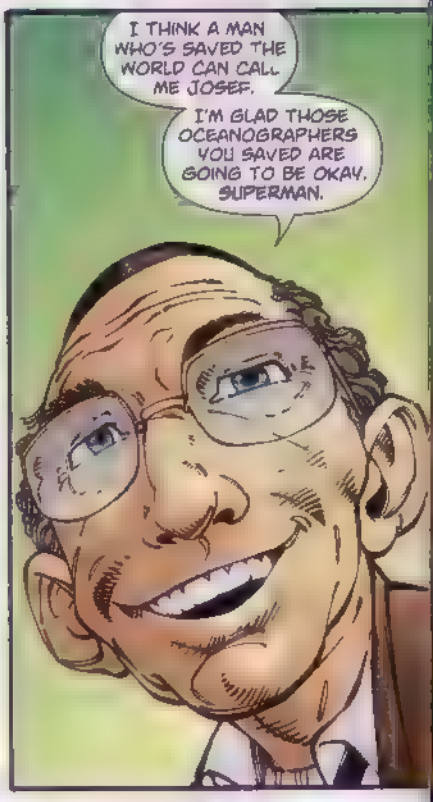
IT'S HIM.
IT'S CHARMING.
HE MUSTN'T SEE ME LIKE THIS, I'M NOT PROPERLY ATTIRED!
THIS LOOKS BAD.
TERRY!
UNLESS I'M HAVING DELUSIONS--
I THINK WE'RE SAVED!
THIS IS THE NERVOUS PART... ANYTHING COULD GO WRONG.
SUPERMAN, CAN YOU HEAR US?
THE SHELL IS SIMPLY TOO DAMAGED TO FULLY REPAIR AT THIS DEPTH... PRESSURE'S MAYBE 5000 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH.
IMPLOSION'S JUST MOMENTS AWAY.
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM UP QUICKLY. TOO QUICKLY.
HULL INTEGRITY BREACHED. PREPARE.
I...I UNDERSTAND, SUPERMAN.
BETTER PREPARE, SWEETIE.
THIS IS GONNA HURT.

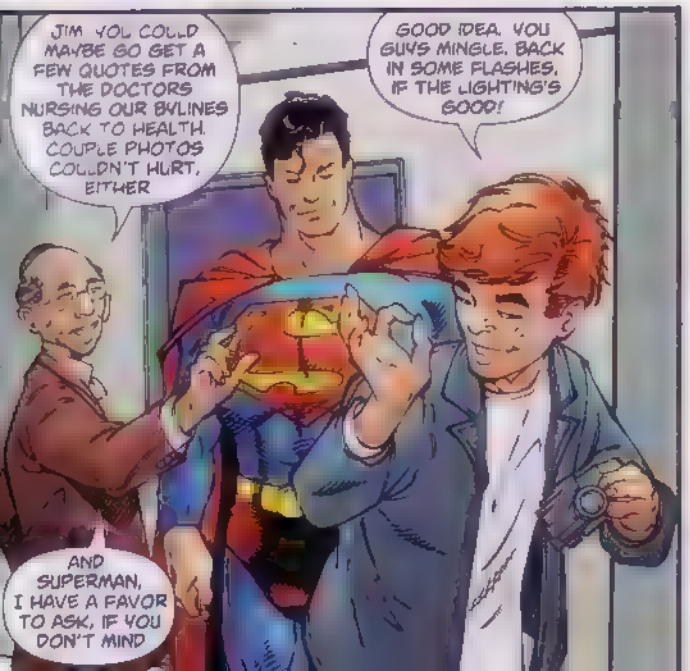
HE CAME BACK FOR ME. I KNOW HE DID.
AND ALL IT TOOK WAS A FEW SUNKEN VESSELS.
HIS HEART IS PROBABLY BREAKING THAT I DIDN'T RUSH TO EMBRACE HIM.
HE'S PROBABLY WISHING FOR HIS OWN DEATH, RATHER THAN FACE ANOTHER MINUTE WITHOUT ME.
NOW THAT...
...IS TRUE LOVE.

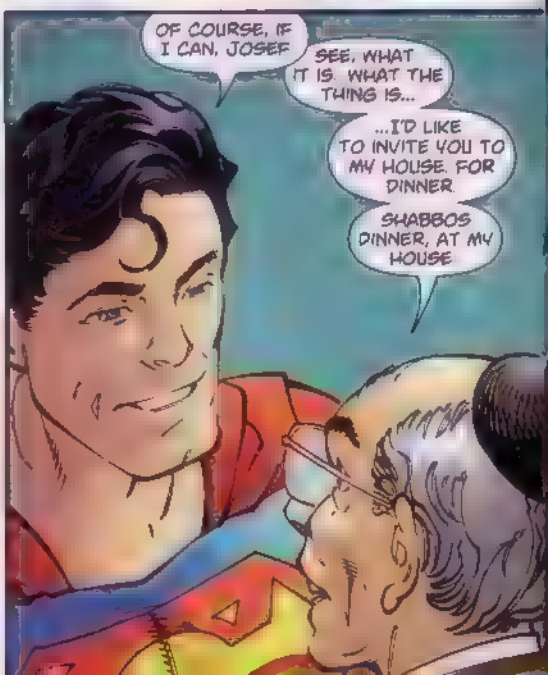
IT IS A TIRESOME AFFAIR, BUT I'M REMEMBERING A MORE PRESENTABLE SKIN FOR THE CHORES I HAVE AHEAD OF ME.
WHAT THE HELL...?
GET BACK! FOR THE LOVE OF...
I AM, ABOVE ALL, A ROMANTIC, AND WITH BEAUTY, THERE IS ALWAYS DISCOMFORT.
GOOD CAPTAIN.
I WONDER IF I MIGHT TROUBLE YOU FOR THE DESTINATION OF THAT HANDSOME YOUNG MAN.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW HIM. THE ONE WHO LEVITATES?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY MEN?
THEY DO WISH TO BE REAL AGAIN, JUST LIKE ANOTHER, I RECALL.
I DENY YOU THAT, CAPTAIN.
NO! I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!
WHY, I'M LOATH TO SAY IT--
--BUT I BELIEVE YOU'RE LYING.
METROPOLIS! HE'S IN METROPOLIS!
METROPOLIS.
I THANK YOU. AND YOU SHALL BE REPAID.
FLAME OR SEA, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE SAILOR TO BE ENGULFED.
NOOOOOOO

I'M A BIT SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE, JIMMY
METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL
Emergency Entrance


HECK, IT WAS EASY I DID SOME CHECKING, AND METROPOLIS HAS THE BEST MEDICAL DECOMPRESSION FACILITY ON THE ENTIRE CONTINENT
MR SCHUMAN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY PAL.
YOU PROBABLY KNOW HIS NAME ALREADY
IT'S AN HONOR, SIR.
THE HONOR IS MINE, MR SCHUMAN JIMMY'S TOLD ME QUITE A BIT ABOUT YOU.


I THINK A MAN WHO'S SAVED THE WORLD CAN CALL ME JOSEF.
I'M GLAD THOSE OCEANOGRAPHERS YOU SAVED ARE GOING TO BE OKAY, SUPERMAN.


JIM YOU COULD MAYBE GO GET A FEW QUOTES FROM THE DOCTORS NURSING OUR BYLINES BACK TO HEALTH. COUPLE PHOTOS COULDN'T HURT, EITHER
GOOD IDEA. YOU GUYS MINGLE. BACK IN SOME FLASHES, IF THE LIGHTING'S GOOD!
AND SUPERMAN, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, IF YOU DON'T MIND


OF COURSE, IF I CAN, JOSEF
SEE, WHAT IT IS WHAT THE THING IS...
...I'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO MY HOUSE. FOR DINNER
SHABBOS DINNER, AT MY HOUSE

WELL, MR. SCHUMAN, I DON'T USUALLY
JOSEF
JOSEF IT'S JUST THAT--
DEL JOCUS
JUST DINNER, SUPERMAN
PLEASE. IT'S IMPORTANT.
BESIDES, MY WIFE'S THE BEST COOK IN THE STATE.
I'M SURE SHE IS
ALL RIGHT, JOSEF I'LL TRY MY BEST
AH. THERE YOU ARE
YOU'RE WEARY, PRINCE
YOU'VE EARNED YOUR SLUMBER

HE IS LOVELY TO BEHOLD, EVEN IN REPOSE
WHAT?
I CAN SEE WHY SHE POACHED HIS HEART
I CAN TASTE MY COMING REVENGE LIKE THE BLOOD OF A NEWBORN
MISTER.
JOSEF?
THEY'RE NOT ONLY TIME-DISPLACED, THEY'RE ALL FROZEN SOLID
JOSEF? JIMMY?
ANYONE?
IF I HADN'T SAID IT RECENTLY, IT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE AFTER JUST RUNNING INTO THE SPECTRE AND BATMAN
I CAN'T STRESS IT ENOUGH
I REALLY HATE MAGIC
MY X-RAY VISION ISN'T WORKING AND MY MOVEMENTS ARE SO SLOW
TYPICAL
ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE POWERFUL, AND YOU'RE USING MAGIC AGAINST ME. SO WHY NOT SAVE SOME TIME AND TELL ME WHO YOU ARE?
OH, CHARMING. OH, MY LOVELY FRUCE. THE MAN I'VE CHOSEN TO SHARE MY THRONE.
DO YOU NOT KNOW?

YOU CALL ME THE QUEEN OF FABLES.
YOU MAY ATTEMPT TO COURT ME, NOW.

I REMEMBER YOU. YOU ATTACKED WONDER WOMAN AND THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
HOW FLATTERING.
I'M WILLING TO FORGIVE YOU FOR IMPRISONING ME.
IN EXCHANGE FOR CERTAIN.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THESE PEOPLE?
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, PRINCE, DO NOT INTERRUPT ME AGAIN. AS FOR THE VILLAGERS--
--WHY.. I'VE BADE THEM REST FOR A CENTURY
UNLESS OF COURSE.
THERE SHOULD BE A WEDDING. THEN WE WOULD OF COURSE NEED GUESTS.
YOUR HIGHNESS--
PLEASE, PRINCE. YOU MAY CALL ME BY MY GIVEN NAME ON THIS EARTH: TSARITSA.
I KNOW YOU'RE PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO HER.
SNOW WHITE.
DO YOU KNOW, I WONDER, WHAT SHE REALLY DID TO ME, SO MANY, MANY TURNINGS OF THE SEASONS AGO?
HER GUARDS BEAT ME WITH CLUBS. THEY STRIPPED ME OF MY ROYAL TITLE AND RAIMENT
SHE SPAT AT ME AS I SCREAMED

THEY PLACED IRON SHOES, RED HOT FROM THE FIRE, IN FRONT OF ME
THE VILLAGERS LAUGHED AS I WAS FORCED TO STEP INTO THEM.
I COULD SMELL THE SIZZLING FAT OF MY OWN FLESH AS THEY FORCED ME TO DANCE UNTIL MY PHYSICAL BODY DIED.
SHE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME
IT'S AS IF SHE CUTS THE WIRE BETWEEN FICTION AND REALITY LISTENING TO HER TELL HER STORY--
SO PERHAPS YOU UNDERSTAND IF I CARRY A BIT OF A STONE IN MY HEART FOR YOUR WIFE.
YOUR SOON-TO-BE FORMER WIFE, OF COURSE.
--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY THE TRUTH OF HER WORDS. SOMEWHERE, SOMEWHEN, SHE REALLY WAS THE VILLAIN IN ALL THE FABLES AND FAIRY TALES EVER TOLD.
YOUR HAND FOR YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE, PRINCE.
I DO SO WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER!
SUPERMAN! HELLLLP!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
OH, I'VE SENT A TROLL TO DEVOUR YOUR SQUIRE.
AND I'VE [illegible] SO THAT WE MIGHT FULLY ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE.
TSARITSA, QUEEN.
I AM NOT MARRIED TO THE PERSON YOU BELIEVE IS SNOW WHITE
AND I CAN'T MARRY YOU.
I SEE.
PERHAPS IF I INCREASE THE DOWRY?
OUR FIRST LOVERS' QUARREL. HOW SWEET

STRAW PIG?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
GO [illegible] THAT MY MATE IS WELL [illegible]ED.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS
JIMMY! HOLD ON!
FROM THE STRAY THOUGHTS OF H.S MIND, I'VE NAMED HIS STEED "BULLET," AND HIS SWORD "VISION."
AND NOW, WE SEE IF HE IS TRULY A KNIGHT
REVENGE ON HIS FEMALE NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE ARE APPEARANCES TO BE MAINTAINED
F HE LIVES
SUPERMAN!
WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND POUND THIS UGLY CREEP BEFORE HE EATS ME?
THEN HE'S WORTHY AND I SHALL HAVE HIM, DESPITE H.S PROTESTATIONS

RUN, JIMMY! RUN!
DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR MY FULL STRENGTH.
BUT THIS CREATURE ISN'T BREATHING AND HAS NO PULSE
IT'S NOT REALLY ALIVE
AND THAT MEANS
...ALL BETS ARE OFF.
HE'S NOT AFRAID OF ME
WHY IS HE NOT AFRAID OF ME?
HULLO PEASANT MEAT.
THIS IS WHERE YOU COMMENT ON WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE
WAIT 'TIL YOU HEAR MY RESPONSE TO THAT STATEMENT
MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, I DON'T THINK I WANT TO BE KILLED BY A CREATURE SO STUPID IT WAS PREVIOUSLY DEFEATED BY A BILLY GOAT.
ITS INTELLIGENCE IS ALMOST NIL. MAYBE I CAN CONFUSE IT..
ARRRGGHHH.

GET AWAY FROM ME!
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING
WELL, COME ALONG! I'VE GOT TWO SPEARS, AND I'LL POKE YOUR EYEBALLS OUT AT YOUR EARS; I'VE GOT BESIDES TWO CURLING-STONES, AND I'LL CRUSH YOU TO BITS, BODY AND BONES.
I GATHER YOU'VE HEARD THAT POEM ONCE BEFORE, CREATURE
LET'S SEE HOW YOU GOBBLE ME UP
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, WEAK THING
I BELIEVE I'LL START WITH THE SWEETBREADS. NOTHING LIKE FRESH PANCREAS TO WHET THE APPETITE
WITH YOUR MOUTH ALREADY FULL

JIMMY! STAY DOWN!
I'VE BEEN A FOOL.
OF COURSE HE'S NOT AFRAID OF ME NOT AS I AM!
ENOUGH!
YOU ARE WORTHY.
BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, PRINCE. SNOW WHITE TOOK EVERYTHING I LOVED, AND I SHALL MAKE YOU MINE, IN RETURN
NO, TSARITSA
I'LL FIGHT YOU
YES AND YOU'LL LOSE.
AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS WILL DIE DEATHS WORTHY OF LEGEND
BUT FOR NOW, I GIVE YOU BACK YOUR CITY
YOU CANNOT FIGHT THE STORIES, PRINCE. THEY WERE WRITTEN CENTURIES AGO
I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU, VERY SOON, MY LOVE.
LET NONE YOU HAVE A CARE FOR STAND IN OUR WAY, FOR MERCY IS NOT A VIRTUE OF MINE

OKAY, THAT WAS ONE OF THE WEIRDEST THINGS I'VE EVER SEEN AND I WAS A TURTLE BOY ONCE.
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S EVEN A THEORETICAL LIMIT TO HER POWER, JIMMY.
SHE'S QUITE POSSIBLY THE SOURCE OF ALL BAD MAGIC, AND WITH THE MAGIC WARS TAKING PLACE CURRENTLY...
I'M...AT A BIT OF A LOSS HOW TO FIGHT BACK, HERE.
MATERNITY

COME ON, SHE'S WARM FOR YOUR FORM, IS ALL.
YOU'LL FIND A WAY... YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
YES.
SO FAR.
I CHOSE THE WRONG STORIES.
HIS ADOPTED HOMELAND THIS MAY WELL BE--

--BUT HE LACKS THE RACE MEMORY TO FEEL MY TALES IN HIS VERY MARROW. HE NEEDS DIFFERENT NIGHTMARES.
MY LADY! NOOOOOOOO!
YOU REALLY ARE A DISMAL HOUND FOR A DIRE WOLF, BEAST. BREATHE YOUR LAST IN AGONY, PLEASE.
THE GLASS FOREST. JAX-EM, THE INNOCENCE THIEF. THE SAD TALE OF THE INQUISITIVE CHILD. THE MAN MADE OF BLOOD.
THE DROWNING POOL OF THE STRIPED RIVER WITCH.

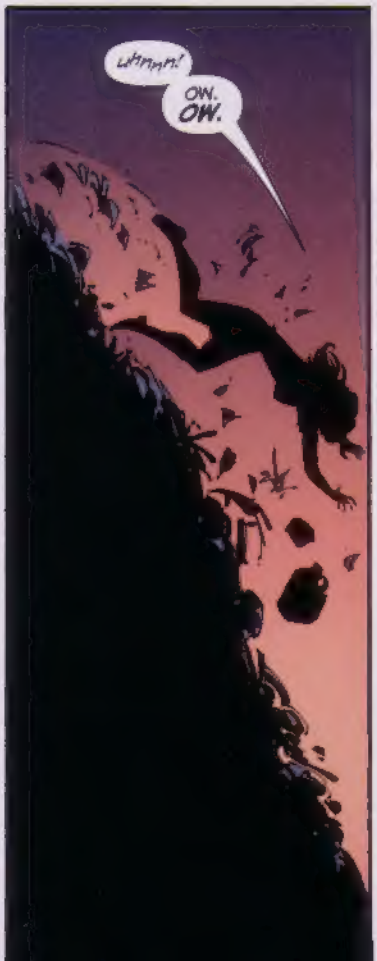
OH, PRINCE. HOW DARK YOUR WORLD'S STORIES WERE...ONCE UPON A TIME.
I TOLD YOU I WAS A TRAVELER, DID I NOT?
HAHA HAHAHA!

I TAKE IT FROM THE AROMA THAT WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO MEET THE CONGRESSMAN, IS THAT RIGHT, MIKE?
IN WHICH CASE, I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND IF I CALL MY EDITOR AND LET HIM KNOW I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED.
COUNTY WASTE DISPOSAL

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT, MS. LANE.
PUT THE PHONE DOWN, PLEASE. LET'S NOT MAKE THIS ANY UGLIER THAN IT HAS TO BE.
I'LL BE HONEST, MIKE. I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE WAY THIS INTERVIEW IS GOING.

FORGIVE ME?
AAAGH!

GET HER!
YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST PERSON WE'VE BURIED HERE, MS. LANE! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!


UHHHH!
OW. OW.

WE GOT HER. SHE'S AT THE BOTTOM ON THIS SIDE!
MAKE IT QUICK, BURT. WE HAVE NO TIME FOR CEREMONY.
AIM FOR THE HEAD.

HEY! WHOEVER YOU ARE, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
NOW! THEY'LL KILL US BOTH!
WILLIS? WHAT'S...WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ME. IT'S LOIS. WE WORK TOGETHER?
WHAT ARE YOU...?
WILLIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NEVER MIND... WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE PLANET!
BLAMM
BLAMM
M.U
NEXT: AWAKE IN THE DARK!

LONG LIVE ROCK

"I think of Rock as a friend. One I've known for a long time."
—JOE KUBERT

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This Month's Cover by...
DAN JURGENS AND KEVIN CONRAD
COLOR BY JEROMY COX

Next In...

Action Comics #834

Once upon a time, the Queen of Fables unleashed Kryptonian nightmares on the people of Metropolis and she would not stop until Superman was hers. Will the Man of Steel live happily ever after... or not at all?

SGT. ROCK: THE PROPHECY #1 (January 2006): Veteran comics creator **Joe Kubert** reenlists with the combat-happy Joes of Easy Co. for a six-issue tour of duty. According to Joe, Rock's mission — to sneak a highly prized religious "treasure" out of Nazi Germany during World War II — "reflects the growth and relationship of a group of men operating under life-and-death circumstances." The master storyteller hopes that readers "will enjoy this book as much as I enjoy doing it." We predict THE PROPHECY will have Rock recruits talking for years to come!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

GOTHAM CENTRAL #37
Captain Marvel guest-stars as INFINITE CRISIS hits Gotham City! When a catastrophic cosmic event occurs in the skies over Gotham, the detectives discover just what being in over their heads really means!

HAWKMAN #46
New cover artist Adam Kubert debuts in an action-packed issue! Brother Eye unleashes an OMAC on St. Roch as Hawkman and Hawkgirl prepare to leave for deep space!

INFINITE CRISIS #2 (of 7)
The heroes are divided as chaos erupts across the universe — from Paradise Island to the farthest reaches of space. Plus, a time-lost hero returns in search of an object that will turn the tide of one of the many wars.

HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING...

Recently, *Wizard* Top Ten Writer **Gail Simone** and artists **Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez** and **Klaus Janson** proposed an idea that was so cool the JLA office asked the trio to bring it to life. So, starting with January's JLA: CLASSIFIED #16, the World's Greatest Super-Heroes come face-to-face with "The Hypothetical Woman!" This harrowing six-issue arc has it all — a nation torn by revolution, and a tyrannical warlord who initiates his greatest act of terror: a League Against Justice (the LAJ? Nah...) that's determined to bring the world and its heroes to their knees!

INFINITE-LY SPECIAL

INFINITE CRISIS may have just begun, but the chaos it's creating is far greater than anything the DC Universe has ever experienced. And the disorder continues to spread elsewhere as the four miniseries that built toward this historic event return as IC specials! Besides picking up on details that weren't fully resolved during the original minis, the INFINITE CRISIS SPECIALs are guaranteed to cause shock waves that will shake up the DCU even more (if that's possible)!

In January, **Bill Willingham** and artists **Justiniano** and **Walden Wong** bring the Shadowpact back together to stop the demonic Seven Sins — not to mention the Spectre — from committing a magical, mystical massacre in the INFINITE CRISIS: DAY OF VENGEANCE SPECIAL! **Dave Gibbons** and **Ivan Reis** take us back across the galaxy for THE RANN-THANAGAR WAR INFINITE CRISIS SPECIAL in February, which promises major changes for Green Lantern Kyle Rayner, and the tragic demise of a heroic warrior!

Meanwhile, in March, the INFINITE CRISIS: VILLAINS UNITED SPECIAL brings **Gail Simone** and penciller **Dale Eaglesham** together to orchestrate a prison break of truly worldwide proportions. And finally, **Greg Rucka** and artist **Jesus Saiz** reunite for March's INFINITE CRISIS: THE OMAC PROJECT SPECIAL, which deals with the mystery of Sasha Bordeaux's transformation into Black Knight One, the legacy of Batman and Brother Eye; and the answer to the question of whether the destroyed super-agency Checkmate will be resurrected... and by whom.

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